

founder of a local charter school, Joe spent much of his free time helping provide a quality education for area students. Joe also founded a local non-profit which helps to locate, renovate and restore veteran gravesites going back to the Revolutionary War, ensuring that all veterans are remembered for their sacrifice.

This sense of service and level of commitment has made Joe a highly-respected figure in our community. While the Auditor's office and the taxpayers of Franklin County will certainly miss his principled leadership, I know he will continue to assist many in Central Ohio through his service as a private citizen.

For his years of service to Franklin County and consistent hard work toward the betterment of Central Ohio, I commend Joe Testa upon his retirement.

NAACP CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the NAACP on their 100th anniversary. As the nation's oldest and largest grassroots civil rights organization, I commend the NAACP for their landmark accomplishments as well as their ongoing efforts to remove all barriers of racial discrimination in our nation.

Founded on February 12, 1909, the NAACP was established by a diverse and determined small group of brave men and women whose stated goal was to secure for all people the rights guaranteed by the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Over the span of 100 years, the NAACP's trailblazing work with federal and state legislators as well as in courthouses across the country transformed the organization into an instrumental force in the movement for political, educational and economic equality. As we begin the 21st century, the NAACP continues to pursue these important goals while remaining focused on promoting voter empowerment initiatives as well as closing the economic and educational disparities that continue to plague minority communities.

In my hometown of El Paso, Texas, the local NAACP branch has a distinguished and rich history of civic participation, as this branch is the oldest in the State of Texas. Established in 1915, the El Paso Branch was led by one of its pioneer charter members, Dr. Lawrence Aaron Nixon. Dr. Nixon worked tirelessly for nearly 20 years to remove the legal barriers that prevented African Americans from participating in Democratic primary elections in Texas. Dr. Nixon was the lead plaintiff in two lawsuits in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his favor by declaring Texas' discriminatory laws to be unconstitutional. In recent times, the El Paso branch continues to serve our community through economic development programs and initiatives to assist our troops and veterans. I am proud of this history as well as the ongoing efforts that the local branch continues to spearhead in El Paso.

While much progress has been made in our nation over the past 100 years, there is unquestionably a lot of work that remains to be done. It is my belief that the NAACP will remain in the forefront in creating positive

change and that through the combined efforts of all people, the promise of America can be reality for all.

IN MEMORY OF LOMPOC MAYOR DICK DEWEES

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Lompoc, California, Mayor Dick DeWees, who passed away last night from complications related to a prior medical condition.

Dick DeWees was more than a legislative colleague. He was an ally and personal friend. The relationship we built over the years greatly benefited our mutual constituencies.

I will miss his leadership and friendship.

Dick and his wife of more than 30 years, Jane, moved to Santa Barbara in 1974 and to Lompoc in 1987, where Dick quickly became involved in the community. In addition to serving as mayor, Dick served on the Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission and is its past chairman, and was the City of Lompoc's representative on the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments. Dick also served on numerous local non-profit organization boards.

As owner of a local advertising agency, DeWees & Company Media Services, which specializes in electronic media, Dick was the recipient of the Sam Walton Business Leader Award. In addition, he taught a public speaking course at the Lompoc Valley Center of Alan Hancock College.

Jane and Dick met while they were performing Summer Stock Theater together in Michigan. Their two married children, Nathan and Anna, also live in Lompoc, as does their first grandchild, Emma Chastain.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in sending our condolences to Jane, their children, their grandchild, and all their family and friends.

Godspeed, Dick.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL BALLOU HOFFER, JR.

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Ontario, California were exceptional. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember an incredible man and American patriot, Paul Ballou Hoffer, Jr. Paul was a dear friend of mine and I was deeply saddened by his passing on July 8, 2009.

Paul was born to Paul Ballou Hoffer and Frances Morgan Hoffer on January 23, 1921 at the family ranch in Ontario, California. He attended Mountain View Elementary School, Chaffey High School and the University of Southern California. A natural athlete, at Chaffey he played varsity basketball for four

years and was a halfback on the football team, receiving dual scholarships to USC for both sports.

During World War II Paul served in the U.S. Navy, commissioned as a Naval Aviator, with several thousand hours of flight time. In 1944 Paul married his high school sweetheart, Laura Jean Belcher, who preceded him in death. They had three sons, Paul III, John and Brett who grew up in the same house in which their father was born. Along with his brothers Morgan, also deceased, and Phillip, Paul was a fourth generation vineyard farmer at Hofer Ranch which was founded by his family in 1882. Paul always believed that the lessons learned from lifetimes of farming, hard work and determination, coupled with the deeply held and abiding belief that land is what endures, have been the anchor that has guided the family through seven generations on the ranch.

In addition to ranching, Paul was a man of many interests. He had a great love of the outdoors, with a passion for fly fishing and wing shooting. Paul was a member of the Masons, and also of the Republican Party. He collected antique farm and winery equipment, proudly adding to the collection at Hofer Ranch. In addition to his three sons, Paul is survived by his brother, Phillip, and his family; his grandchildren, Jason Hofer (Christina), Jacklyn Hofer Winton (Jeremy), Morgan Hofer and Laura Hofer; his great-granddaughter, Elizabeth; and other family members.

Paul's passion for his ranch, his family, and his community has contributed immensely to the betterment of the Ontario, California. I was proud to call Paul a fellow community member, American and good friend. I hope his family knows that their father, brother, and grandfather, and the goodness he brought to this world, will always be remembered.

COMMEMORATING THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, as we enter into the month of August, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the anniversary of The Voting Rights Act of 1965. On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law. The date marks a pivotal moment in our country's progress in extending equal membership in the political processes to every American. The right to vote is a fundamental principle of all democracies. Yet, in our great nation whose founding fathers and documents boasted of its creation to promote equality, there was a substantial period of history during which minority men and women were barred from that very right. The Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right to vote for every citizen, but the discriminatory practices of Jim Crow in the antebellum south used taxes, literacy tests, gerrymandering, and language discrimination to prevent Blacks from voting and taking part in the government. Without the right to vote, many African-Americans were subject to intolerable injustices and appalling prejudice.

The Voting Rights Act represents a culmination of the great efforts of civil rights organizations and activists to inform the nation of the

extensive disenfranchisement taking place throughout the country. The anniversary of the enactment of this historic law provides an opportunity to acknowledge these activists. Most notably, their tremendous dedication and uncompromising pursuit of equality took the form of peaceful marches from Selma to Montgomery that were met with vicious attacks by state and local police forces. These events caught the attention of the President and Congress, contributing to a commitment to new civil rights legislation to counter the resistance and discrimination laws within the states. The enactment of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 allowed African-Americans across the country to finally have a say in the functioning of the country. Today, I celebrate the anniversary of this law as a reflection of what our country represents: a nation pledged to representing the views, values, and beliefs of all the people it serves.

TRIBUTE TO TRINITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker. I would like to recognize the remarkable history and invaluable contributions of an extraordinary church and congregation in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is fitting that we recognize this outstanding institution for its inspiring history as the City of Denver's "First Church" and for its enduring service to the people of our community and our nation. It is to commend this distinguished organization that I rise to honor the Trinity United Methodist Church on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

In the spring of 1859, only months after the mining camps of Auraria and Denver City were precariously settled along the banks of Cherry Creek, the Kansas-Nebraska Conference of the United Methodist Church sent out members to set up churches in the already rowdy mining camps of the newly established Pikes Peak region. On August 2, 1859, frontier minister William H. Goode and 23-year-old Jacob Adriance established the Auraria and Denver City Methodist Episcopal Mission, known today as Trinity United Methodist Church. In 1864, a new Trinity United Methodist Church was built at 14th and Lawrence Streets to serve a burgeoning congregation.

The "Lawrence Street Church" served the community well. However, after arrival of the railroads to Denver, the City expanded greatly spreading the church's congregation further out into the growing city. By 1888 a new church rose at 18th and Broadway in Denver to accommodate the congregation's growing members. For over a century Trinity United Methodist Church has remained at this location. The church was regarded by its architect, Robert S. Roeschlaub, as the crowning achievement of his extensive career. Built of local sandstone and materials the sanctuaries ornate and carefully considered carvings and architecture are a testament to the commitment of the church to its members and community. Its 184 foot spire was one of the tallest stone towers in 1888 and remains a distinctive feature. Inside reside soaring stain

glass windows and solid brass pulpit along with a custom crafted 4,202 pipe organ which brings parishioners to prayer.

Today under the banner of "We're Here for Good!" over 50,000 church members share in weekly worship. In honor of its 150th Anniversary and in continuation of the church's service to our community and fellow humankind, the congregation has laid out four ambitious missions; planting a new church for those on the margins of society; completing construction of the John Wesley School in Guatemala; partnering to reduce infant, child, and maternal mortality in Liberia; upgrading the interior to be greener, safer, and more welcoming.

Please join me in commending Trinity United Methodist Church for its 150 years of invaluable service to our community and our nation. It is the commitment and dedication that Trinity United Methodist Church and members of its congregation exhibit on a daily basis which continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all of our people.

TRIBUTE TO LUCILE GOODHUE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lucile Goodhue on the celebration of her 100th birthday on August 26, 2009.

Lucile was born on what is now a 150-year old farm near Hartford, Iowa in 1909. She became a farm wife when she married her husband Wilbur. Lucile enjoyed traveling with Wilbur and collecting antiques. She has been blessed with numerous children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Lucile's secrets to a long life are to keep active, take power naps and remain positive. She always followed these directives with a great sense of humor. Lucile currently lives at the Good Same Care Center in Indianola, Iowa.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred years. Since Lucile's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Lucile has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Lucile Goodhue for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Lucile in the United States Congress and I wish her happiness and health in her future years.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 75th Anniversary of the East

Bay Regional Park District, headquartered in Oakland, California. The story of the EBRPD is an inspirational one in which citizens, during the toughest of economic times, had a mission. In the late 1920s, thousands of acres of surplus watershed land were available for development. Far-sighted civic leaders sought to preserve this land and retain a balance of recreational and wilderness features.

With 65 parks, over 1,100 miles of trails, campgrounds, visitor centers, historic sites, lakes and shorelines, the mission of the East Bay Regional Park District is to provide recreational opportunities, ensure the natural beauty and cultural history of the land, and protect wildlife habitat.

In 1934, during the depths of the Great Depression, members of a grassroots land preservation movement placed a measure on the ballot. It passed by a resounding 71% and the first regional park agency in the nation, the East Bay Regional Park District, was created.

At the outset, the Park District included only seven Alameda County communities and no parks. By 1936, it was able to purchase enough land to create three parks. The first three parks were opened with great fanfare on October 18, 1936. The opening of Redwood Regional Park in 1939 soon followed.

In the 1940s, Pearl Harbor and the start of World War II halted the District's growth. Much of Tilden Regional Park was turned over to the U.S. Army Defense Command. At the end of the war, the District began an era of prudent growth as people returned to the parks seeking family recreation. Concessions such as Tilden Regional Park's steam train, carousel, and pony ride were added. This growth continued into the 1950s with Roberts Regional Park's swimming pool, baseball field, and picnic areas.

Between 1968 and 1987, the District added 32 new regional parks and preserved 43,000 acres of the East Bay's most scenic parkland. During the period 1988–2008, the District added 15 new regional parks and an additional 34,000 acres of open space. There were increased volunteer opportunities and expanded communication tools, such as the District's website. District staff also built and opened Camp Arroyo, a state-of-the-art environmental education and youth camp.

The Park District describes itself as a work in progress as it struggles to acquire and operate regional parks and trails to serve the Bay Area population. Regardless of future challenges and opportunities, the East Bay Regional Park District is committed to providing East Bay residents with recreational opportunities and open space reserves close to home.

I join the community in celebrating the East Bay Regional Park's 75th Anniversary and send best wishes for many more successful years of service.

IN TRIBUTE TO CHARLES HOBBY STRIPLING, SR.

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise today not only to honor Hobby Stripling for his continuing contributions